

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No.: 09/937,468
Reply to Office Action of February 23, 2006

PATENT
PD990017

Remarks/Arguments

Since the Applicants' previous amendment has not been entered, the instant amendment starts from the claims as finally rejected. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 25 and 27 are allowable, and that there is allowable subject matter in Claims 2, 3, 8, 13, 14 and 20.

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

The subject matter of Claim 1 has been incorporated into Claim 2.

Claims 4-7 have been cancelled.

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 1 and 6. Claims 9-12 have been cancelled. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 9 and 12.

Claim 14 is dependent from Claim 13 which has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its parent claims.

Claim 3 is dependent from Claim 2 which has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its parent Claim 1.

Claims 9-12 have been cancelled.

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 12 and 9.

Claim 14 is dependent from Claim 13, which has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its parent claims.

Claims 15-19 have been cancelled.

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its parent Claim 18.

Claims 21-24 have been cancelled.

Claim 26 has been cancelled.

With this amendment, the only claims remaining in the application are those which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable, or which the Examiner has indicated to contain allowable subject matter. The Applicants therefore submit that the instant application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

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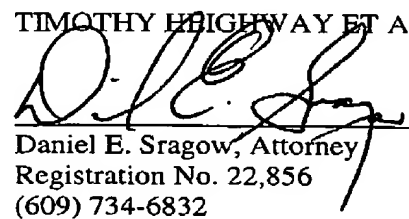
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If there is still some minor matter that must be resolved before the application can be allowed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the issue may be resolved by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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